

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I mean the Inspector gave a report to the Magistrate. Then, the Magistrate made a sort of enquiry, and sent a report to me. Not the contrary.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—That makes matters worse.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—That is the fact. I have not made any independent enquiry apart from the enquiry made by the Magistrate.

President.—Has this matter of influencing witnesses by Ramaswami Naidu ever come to your notice? If so, what action have you taken?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It was brought to my notice, as I said; I am not sure whether it was influencing or whether it was any other thing. I can't say what the nature of the charge is before referring to the records. Something very bad. Concerning Naidu, the matter was brought to my notice by the Trichur Magistrate, at the instance of the Trichur Inspector, and the result of the enquiry made by the Magistrate was communicated to me. From the last letter sent to me by the Magistrate, no further action was necessary.

President.—You did not find it necessary to conduct any investigation, and so you have not done it.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Am I to understand that, in spite of the fact that Ramaswami Naidu was under suspension a few days before for serious misconduct, when another charge was levelled against him, the department thought that no enquiry was necessary?

President.—That is argument. If you want information, the Superintendent will furnish it.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The Magistrate found, on enquiry, that the charge was not well-founded.

221. Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether this K. R. Ramaswami Ayyar was not the previous camp clerk of the Excise Commissioner and this Ramaswami Naidu, a person then under suspension for serious misconduct?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Ramaswami Ayyar was the camp clerk of the Excise Superintendent till 27th Vrischigam 1101.

With regard to Ramaswami Naidu, vide answer to question 220.

222. Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state the grounds, if any, for withholding the increment of the Trichur Salt Inspector?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The increment of the Inspector was not sanctioned, because he was found to be lax, and his work was otherwise found to be not very satisfactory.

Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon.—May I know whether final orders regarding his increment were passed, after the disposal of the case or before?

President.—Was this increment sanctioned, after the case was disposed of or before?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—The increment was not for one year, but was from 1100. The increment of 1100 was stopped before this case—before the incident happened.

President.—So, nothing was done after the case?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—With regard to 1101, it was in Kanni 1101 that this increment became due, and no final orders have been passed.

President.—Even in 1100, the increment was stopped. There was no case then. Let us first analyse the matter. Was he entitled in the usual course of things to increment in 1100?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—He was. It was not allowed. In 1101 also, he was eligible for increment. That also was not allowed.

President.—So far as 1100 was concerned, you say it was not granted. No case was then pending. Orders were passed in 1100. This case was in 1101. Then, was his conduct not satisfactory?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—He was found to be lagging in his work.

President.—But the supplementary question is whether orders were passed before. We have nothing to do with the disposal of the case, so far as 1101 was concerned. Was the order passed, after the case was disposed of, or was his case taken up for consideration at all?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Yes, Sir, there was a petition put in by him. I think, I passed orders, after the case was disposed of.

President.—That petition has necessarily related to the increment of 1100 and 1101, because already the increment of 1100 has been refused. So, in 1101, if he put in an application, he must request for increment for both the years.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Yes, Sir.

President.—So, after the case was disposed of, you disposed of this petition by refusing his increment.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Yes, Sir.